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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

State Veterans Cemeteries

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Adopted
July 18, 2012

1. **Objective:** To ensure that state veterans cemeteries have the financial resources necessary to meet essential maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements.
2. **Background:**
 - Prior to October 2011, state veterans cemeteries received \$300 per veteran burial from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In October 2011 the amount increased to \$700 per veteran burial.
 - State veterans cemeteries do not receive VA funds for spousal burials. Many states charge a fee to offset the costs of spousal burials. Virginia currently charges \$300.
 - Maintenance reserve and equipment replacement funds for Virginia state veterans cemeteries come from two sources: the General Fund (GF) and a Non-General Fund (NGF) appropriation. The NGF maintenance reserve funds come from the VA burial reimbursement and the fee charged for spousal burials.
3. **Discussion:**
 - While the Commonwealth provides GF support for maintenance reserve and equipment replacement at Virginia state veterans cemeteries, the amount is insufficient to meet all requirements.
 - The increase in VA funding is projected to bring in an additional \$280,000 per year. While this may not fully fund all maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements, it is a significant contribution that will reduce future GF requirements.
 - The additional NGF funding should be used to fund the NGF portion of maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements.
4. **Recommendation:** That the Governor and Department of Veterans Services
 - Utilize the additional VA funds for the NGF portion of the maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements;
 - Maintain the current charges for burial vaults for veterans and spouses and the burial fee for spouses, subject to a bi-annual review by the Board of Veterans Services.
 - Maintain current levels of GF support for state veterans cemeteries for both operations and maintenance reserve/equipment replacement.